

## **City of Knoxville Public Arts Committee**

### **Request for Qualifications: Stairs at Cumberland Ave & 11th Street**

The City of Knoxville's Public Arts Committee invites artists and artist teams to submit qualifications for the stairs at Cumberland Ave and 11th Street between downtown Knoxville and the University of Tennessee. The Committee seeks artists working in paint for the design and beautification of the stairs in this important corridor.

#### **ELIGIBILITY:**

This opportunity is open to all artists or artist teams over the age of 18.

**DEADLINE: 5:00 PM EST, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016.**

**SELECTION PROCESS:** Artists and artist teams are asked to submit qualifications to Liza Zenni, staff liaison for the Public Arts Committee. Out of these submissions, up to three (3) artists will be selected as finalists to prepare and present a proposal design to be considered for the site. An honorarium of \$500 will be provided to each finalist/team to create and present a design proposal, as required.

**PROJECT BUDGET:** The maximum budget for this project is \$15,000, which includes artist fees and costs associated with the design, fabrication, transportation to the site, permits, insurance, equipment rental, pressure washing of the site, installation, materials, and protective coating. Selected finalists will be asked to include a detailed itemized budget with their proposed design. All selected finalist designs will be considered, but designs reflective of the Knoxville community, history, or topography will be favored.

#### **PROJECT DETAILS:**

*Context:* The stairs adjacent to the Second Creek Park & Greenway are in an important location that touch the University of Tennessee, World's Fair Park, and downtown Knoxville. Located on Cumberland Avenue near 11th Street, Second Creek Greenway connects World's Fair Park's walking trails along Second Creek to Neyland Greenway and the City's waterfront venues adjacent to the Tennessee River. It is located in the dramatic topography of the Second Creek valley. To enter World's Fair Park from the Second Creek valley, greenway patrons have two options: 1) use the crosswalk on Cumberland Ave. or 2) use the ramp that leads from Second Creek Greenway to a pedestrian bridge that crosses over Cumberland Ave. The staircase also leads to the pedestrian bridge. Cumberland Avenue is one of the busiest commercial districts in Knoxville and averages approximately 30,000 vehicles each day. There are also an average of 4,000 pedestrians each day. The Greenway attracts a diverse group of visitors, including downtown residents, UT students, and visitors to World's Fair Park and the Knoxville Convention Center.

*Site details:* The steps at Cumberland Avenue near 11th Street are divided into five segments. The first segment is four steps, followed by a landing that measures 10' wide by 7'4" deep. Segment #2 is eight steps, followed by a landing measuring 10' wide by 6' deep. Segment #3 is 10 steps, followed by a similarly sized landing. Segment #4 is also 10 steps with an identical landing. Segment #5 is 11 steps, which is the end of the staircase. Each step measures

approximately 6.5' tall and 10' wide. Selected finalists will be encouraged to submit designs that primarily include the rise of the steps and the landing areas.

*Please see site photographs on page 3.*

#### **TIMELINE:**

- Submission deadline: November 21, 2016
- Finalists (up to 3) are notified: December 9, 2016
- Proposed designs to selection committee: January 17, 2017
- Winning artist/team is notified: February 10, 2017
- Final design review: February 17, 2017
- Installation: Spring 2017

#### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Completed application form (see page 4)
- Current CV/resume
- Letter of interest (1 page maximum): applicants should briefly describe their interest in the project and include a description of their approach and proposed design for the project.
- 4-6 images of previously completed work that demonstrates an ability to design, create and install large-scale, outdoor artwork.
- Description of each image, including title, date, size, material, and location if a public artwork.
- 3 professional references with current contact information

*Please note: submitted materials will not be returned and incomplete applications will not be considered.*

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2016.** All materials must be received no later than 5:00 PM. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

Mail or e-mail complete applications to:

Arts & Culture Alliance

ATTN: Liza Zenni

PO Box 2506

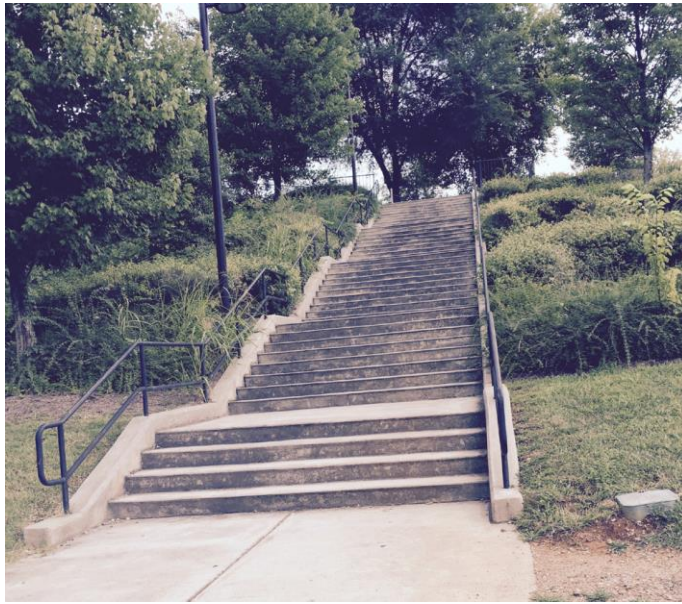
Knoxville, TN 37902

[lz@knoxalliance.com](mailto:lz@knoxalliance.com)

For more information:

Call (865) 523-7543 or e-mail: [lz@knoxalliance.com](mailto:lz@knoxalliance.com)

## Site Photographs



Close up of the Cumberland Avenue staircase



Staircase as seen from Cumberland Ave, headed east toward downtown Knoxville

**City of Knoxville Public Arts Committee**  
**Stairs at Cumberland Ave & 11th Street**

**APPLICATION FORM**

APPLICANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

WEBSITE (OPTIONAL): \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE:** Submissions must be received by **5:00 PM on November 21, 2016**

**APPLICATION CHECKLIST:**

\_\_\_\_ Application Form

\_\_\_\_ CV/Resume

\_\_\_\_ Letter of Interest

\_\_\_\_ 4-6 Images of Previous Work

\_\_\_\_ Description of each image, including title, date, size, material, and location if a public artwork.

\_\_\_\_ 3 Professional References

**MAIL OR E-MAIL APPLICATION TO:**

Arts & Culture Alliance

PO Box 2506

Knoxville, TN 37902

[lz@knoxalliance.com](mailto:lz@knoxalliance.com)